



August 2008

# Five Year Review for the Upper Tenmile Mining Area

## Background

The Upper Tenmile Creek Mining Area was added to the Superfund National Priorities List on October 22, 1999, due to contamination from mining wastes located in the Upper Tenmile watershed. Contaminants of concern include arsenic, lead, copper, and zinc. The small historic mining community of Rimini is located in the center of Site.

EPA and the Montana DEQ issued a Record of Decision in 2002 calling for cleanup of contaminated yard soils, and cleanup of contaminated materials in Rimini Road. The ROD also identified 150 individual mine sites within the watershed boundary, of which 70 were prioritized to cleanup.

## Five Year Review

One of the Superfund program requirements is that a review of the cleanup occur at least every five years. Since construction has not been completed at the Tenmile site, the Five Year Review focused on determining whether:

- 1) The remedy is being constructed in accordance with the requirements of the decision documents (the ROD); and
- 2) The remedy is expected to be protective when it is completed.

EPA has completed its Five Year Review of the cleanup actions taken to date at the Upper Tenmile Mining Area Superfund Site (July 30, 2008). This was the first Five Year Review for this Site.

In addition to evaluating site specific sampling results and monitoring information, the Review also included information collected during recent interviews with community members and local officials. The public was also invited to provide information for use in the review.

## Five Year Review: General Findings

The review found that the remedy is being conducted in accordance with decision documents and that it is expected to be protective when complete.

## **Five Year Review: Specific Findings**

- The remedy is protective of human health where residential yards soils were cleaned up (contamination removed/replaced with clean soils);
- Metals levels have declined at the Poison Creek Station but have remained unchanged in other areas;
- There are potential concerns in the following areas:
  - Un-remediated yards
  - Residents who have decided not to use an alternative (bottled or treated) for drinking water may be drinking unsafe water
  - Rimini Road has not yet been cleaned up
  - No groundwater institutional controls are in place
  - No institutional controls are in place for capped waste at the Red Water Mine

## **Copies of the Five Year Review**

Copies of the Five Year Review for the Upper Tenmile Mining Area Superfund Site are available for review at these locations:

Rimini Community Center  
Rimini Road  
Rimini, Montana

Lewis and Clark Public Library  
120 South Last Chance Gulch  
Helena, Montana  
(406) 447-1690

EPA Montana Office – Records Center  
10 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Helena, Montana  
Monday-Friday 8 am – 5 pm  
(406) 457-5046

Copies are also available by calling EPA at (406) 457-5000 or 1-866-457-2690

You may also review or download a copy from the internet:  
[http://epa.gov/region8/superfund/mt/upper\\_ten/index.html](http://epa.gov/region8/superfund/mt/upper_ten/index.html)

## **For More Information, please contact:**

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Diana Hammer, EPA Community Involvement, (406) 457-5042 or [hammer.diana@epa.gov](mailto:hammer.diana@epa.gov)  
Larry Scusa, Montana DEQ Project Officer, (406) 841-5035 or [lscusa@mt.gov](mailto:lscusa@mt.gov)

The Five Year Review will be discussed at the next Upper Tenmile Watershed meeting:

Thursday, August 28  
6:30—8:30 pm  
Rimini Community Center  
Rimini

Questions about the meeting?  
Please contact Jesse Aber,  
DNRC,  
Upper Tenmile Watershed  
Steering Committee  
Facilitator, at [jaber@mt.gov](mailto:jaber@mt.gov)